Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 86, from line 11 through line 18, with the following paragraph:

For the monitoring of unknown polypeptide gene products, separation techniques such as 2 dimensional gel electrophoresis are employed. 2D PAGE typically involves sample preparation, electrophoresis in a first dimension on an immobilised pH gradient, SDS-PAGE electrophoresis in a second dimension, and sample detection. Protocols for 2D PAGE are widely available in the art, for example ~~at http://www.expasy.ch/ch2d/protocols/-~~, on the world wide web at expasy.ch/ch2d/protocols/ the contents of which as of Nov. 30, 2001 are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 143, from line 20, and continuing through page 144 to line 9, with the following paragraph:

The coding sequences of the novel identified genes, kinases/GPCRS, are screened for AAN19TT siRNA target sequences with a GC content of 40-55% (~~ambion.com/techlib/misc/siRNA_finder.html~~ available on the world wide web at ambion.com/techlib/misc/siRNA_finder.html). Candidate oligonucleotides are subject to a BLAST search against the Genbank database to ensure that the selected sequences share no significant homology with any other human genes. In addition, the siRNA for a subset of genes were designed by Ambion using their proprietary design algorithms. The oligonucleotides selected are depicted in Table 9. The siRNA duplexes are chemically synthesised as N19(RNA)+TT(DNA) by Qiagen and purified to the Qiagen HPP standard. The oligos are supplied annealed, and are resuspended to a concentration of 20~~.quadrature.~~ μM in siRNA buffer (100 mM potassium acetate, 30 mM HEPES-KOH, pH 7.4, 2 mM magnesium acetate) then incubated for 1 min at 90^{0}~~.degree.~~ C. followed by 1 hour at 37^{0} ~~.degree.~~ C. The siRNA designed by Ambion is chemically synthesised by Ambion and purified by HPLC. These siRNA duplexes are resuspended in H~~.sub.~~2_2O at 20 ~~.mu.~~ μM. Duplex siRNAs are stored at -20^{0} ~~.degree.~~ C. until required.

The following Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions and all prior listings of the claims in the present application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying an agent that modulates the function of inositol-1, 4 5-triphosphate 3-kinase C (ITPKC) ~~an apoptosis-associated protein that is encoded by a gene selected from Table 1B~~, comprising providing a preparation containing said ITPKC; incubating the preparation with a test agent to be screened under conditions to permit binding of the test agent to ~~the protein~~ ITPKC; determining whether the test agent interacts with ~~the protein~~ ITPKC by detecting the presence or absence of a an apoptotic signal, selected from the group consisting of: caspase activation, DNA fragmentation, cell death, lack of cell proliferation, amount of G1 DNA, change in mitochondrial membrane potential, or externalization of phosphatidylserine, and the signal generated from the interaction of the agent with ~~the protein~~ ITPKC, and thereby determining whether the test agent modulates the function of ITPKC ~~the apoptosis-associated protein~~.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the preparation containing the protein comprises a cell expressing the protein.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein ~~the apoptosis-associated protein that is encoded by a gene selected from Table 1B is a protein kinase and~~ determining whether the test agent interacts with ~~the protein~~ ITPKC is by detecting a change in the phosphotransferase activity of ~~the protein~~ inositol-1, 4 5-triphosphate 3-kinase C.

4. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the apoptosis-associated protein that is encoded by a gene selected from Table 1B is a cell surface receptor and the preparation containing said encoded protein comprises a cell expressing said encoded protein on its surface, said protein being associated with a second component capable of providing a detectable signal in response to the binding of an agent to said protein.

5. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the apoptosis-associated protein that is encoded by a gene selected from Table 1B is a cell surface receptor and the preparation containing said encoded protein comprises a cell expressing said encoded protein on its surface, said protein being associated with a G-protein in response to the binding of an agent to said protein.

6. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the apoptosis-associated protein that is encoded by a gene selected from Table 1B is a cell surface receptor and the preparation containing said encoded protein comprises a cell expressing said encoded protein on its surface, said protein being associated with a Gi, Go, Gs, G.sub.16, G.sub.15, Gq or G.sub.12-13 G-protein in response to the binding of an agent to said protein.

7. (Withdrawn) A process for determining whether a chemical compound specifically binds to and inhibits an apoptosis-associated protein that is encoded by a gene selected from Table 1B, which comprises contacting cells producing a second messenger response and expressing the protein that is encoded by a gene selected from Table 1B, wherein such cells do not normally express said protein, with the chemical compound under conditions suitable for inhibition of the protein, and measuring the second messenger response in the presence and in the absence of the chemical compound, a change in the second messenger response in the presence of the chemical compound indicating that the compound inhibits the apoptosis-associated protein that is encoded by a gene selected from Table 1B.

8. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 7, wherein the second messenger response comprises chloride channel activation, a change in intracellular calcium ion levels, a release of inositol phosphate, a release of arachidonic acid, GTP.gamma.S binding, activation of MAP kinase, cAMP accumulation, a change in intracellular potassium ion levels, or a change in intracellular sodium ion levels.

9. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 7 wherein the second messenger response is measured by a change in reporter gene activity.

10. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 7 wherein the second messenger response is measured by a change in reporter gene activity, said reporter gene being selected from secreted alkaline phosphatase, luciferase, and. beta. -galactosidase.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying an agent that inhibits tumor cell proliferation, which comprises determining whether a test agent modulates the activity or expression of a protein that is encoded by a gene selected from Table 1B, and determining whether any agent that modulates said activity or expression is an inhibitor of tumor proliferation.

12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11, wherein the test agent is selected from a low molecular weight organic molecule, an antibody or antibody fragment, an antisense oligonucleotide, a small inhibitory dsRNA, and a ribozyme.

13. (New) A method of identifying an agent that modulates the function of inositol-1, 4 5-triphosphate 3-kinase C (ITPKC) comprising providing a preparation containing said ITPKC; incubating the preparation with a test agent to be screened under conditions to permit binding of the test agent to ITPKC, wherein the test agent is selected from the group consisting of low molecular weight organic molecule, an antibody or antibody fragment, an antisense oligonucleotide, a small inhibitory dsRNA, and a ribozyme; determining whether the test agent interacts with ITPKC by detecting the presence or absence of a signal generated from the interaction of the agent with ITPKC, and thereby determining whether the test agent modulates the function of ITPKC.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein determining whether the test agent interacts with ITPKC is by detecting a 75% change in a signal generated from the interaction of the agent with ITPKC, and thereby determining whether the test agent modulates the function of ITPKC.